

CHAPTER 5. ACCESS TO PUBLIC AND PRIVATE AIRPORTS, LANDING STRIPS, AND OTHER AREAS USED FOR OPERATION OF AIRCRAFT

1. BACKGROUND. Aviation safety inspectors (ASI) are issued credentials allowing them access to areas used for the operation of aircraft. The credential is Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Form 110A, Aviation Safety Inspector's Credential, which entitles an ASI to uninterrupted access to any U.S.-registered aircraft pilot compartment (refer to Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) part 121, § 121.548 and part 135, § 135.75). During inspections exceeding 24 hours, ASIs outside their assigned area will coordinate with the affected airport for the issuance of a local ID card, where applicable. FAA Order 8000.38, Aviation Safety Inspector Credential Program, current edition, provides policy and guidance on this subject.

3. DEFINITIONS.

A. Private Airport. Any private property used for the operation of aircraft by the owner or other persons at the invitation or cognizance of the owner.

B. Public Airport. Any airport in which the management offers to the public any type of aircraft sales and/or services for compensation.

5. ACCESS TO PRIVATE AIRPORTS, LANDING STRIPS, AND OTHER AREAS. ASIs must advise the owner or agent of a private facility of their desire to enter the premises and the purpose of the visit. An ASI has no authority to enter private property without the owner's permission. As a courtesy, the owner or agent should be invited to accompany the ASI, as this gesture may encourage further cooperation. If the owner or agent is unable to accompany the ASI, the ASI should request permission for access to aircraft for the stated purposes. However, FAA Form 110A authorizes ASIs to be in a restricted area without escort while conducting official FAA inspections.

7. ACCESS TO PUBLIC AIRPORTS. The ASI should give airport management/security sufficient notice of the visit. If the occasion warrants, airport management may be invited to accompany the ASI.

9. DENIAL OF ACCESS. ASIs must consider that entry onto the property of another without authority or permission may be construed as trespassing, regardless of intent. It is rare that an ASI is denied access for the purpose of conducting official duties; however, such a case should be referred to the appropriate supervisory authority.